

The **Bats** aren't quite as scary as they look and even though their album *Fear of God* (Mammoth) starts with a song called "Boogey Man" and they sing with pronounced New Zealand accents they're really in the modern folk rock mold with songs enhanced by accordions and fiddles. Their highly melodic songs are driven by the rhythm guitars and the vocals are more serious than soulful, but there's no doubt they mean it. Best song is "The Looming Past," where they back off the intensity, paint a picture and express a feeling.

The Bats: Thurs., Nov. 12 at 9 p.m. at Khyber Pass Pub, 56 S 2nd St., 440-9683.

--Peter Brown